

NOT SO SAFE

How the Food and Drug Administration Lets Food Safety Slip Through the Holes

DETERMINING "SAFETY" for CHEMICALS in FOOD

A company wants to add a new chemical ingredient to food. Here's the process to establish the ingredient as "safe" and legal to be used in foods.

most companies start here

OPTION 1

- or -

OPTION 2

Submit a Food Additive Petition to FDA, with scientific evidence showing the ingredient will be safe for use in food.

FDA reviews the petition, and publishes a notice approving or denying additive status for the ingredient.

IF FDA APPROVES... the company can start using it in food under the terms approved by FDA.

IF FDA DENIES THE PETITION... The substance is considered illegal and may not be used in food.

OUTCOME 1
FDA says it has "no questions" about the company's GRAS determination.

The company makes its own decision that the ingredient is "GRAS" – Generally Recognized As Safe – legal for use in food. The company can notify FDA...

or not. The company can simply start using the ingredient in food.

If the company notifies FDA of its determination that the ingredient is GRAS, FDA will respond in one of three ways.

OUTCOME 2
FDA raises questions. The company can withdraw its claim that the ingredient is GRAS...

and simply start using the ingredient.

OUTCOME 3
FDA denies the claim that the ingredient is safe.

Others companies can declare it GRAS and use it anyway.

BUT IS IT SAFE?

Why leave it up to the companies to determine whether their own chemical ingredients are safe?
Close the loopholes, FDA!

JOIN the CAMPAIGN to STRENGTHEN FDA
bit.ly/GRAS-additives

LEARN which ADDITIVES are SAFE
chemicalcuisine.org



Center for Science in the Public Interest

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/food/ingredientspackaginglabeling/gras/default.htm>